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## TEMPERAMENT IN GOLF

### One Man's Style May Prove the Undoing of His Imitator



LONG ago it became a truism that success in golf more than any other outdoor sport depends largely upon the temperament of the individual concerned, says *The New York Sun*. This has been admitted by implication in countless descriptions of famous players in both amateur and professional ranks, and there are conceded to be qualities which enable a man to win an even larger number of matches and medals than his manual dexterity warrants. It may well be said that the most successful golfer is he who invariably faces the facts exactly as they are, which naturally does not mean that to play golf well it is necessary for a man to be dull, unintelligent or devoid of imagination. Granting that the style is of the man, the writings of several golfers of wide reputation prove that the gaining of the highest honors in golf by

The individuality so prominent in golf will not permit it.

It ought to be possible for everybody to improve his nerve. Golf is a game that tries the nerves, and the greater the advancement in this kind of improvement the better the game of the particular individual becomes. It is impossible to get away from the strain imposed by external causes, such as are produced by the wind, the presence of hazards close to the proposed line of play, and so on. But many a man has declared that the subjective difficulties, which the golfer creates for himself and which more frequently than otherwise lead to disaster, can be largely diminished, if not completely eliminated. Just here is where temperament enters.

One authority, who is fond of considering the matter of self-improvement on the links, suggests what he calls a "system of practical philosophy." The first step of the golfer to take, he says, is to subject himself to a rigid course of self-examination; in fact, form a catechism for his own use. He suggests the first question to be: "Do I prefer a four-ball match to



"NEXT WEEK, THE TRAP SHOOTERS"

no means argues stupidity or even extreme stolidity of their possessors. It may be said, however, that when championships are won the winners seem to go on their way with nothing on their minds but the matter immediately at hand and turning the eye of the mind neither backward nor forward.

It is easier to take accurate note of the manner of a well known player than to imitate it in its essentials. There seems to be a tinge of irony in the fact that the harmful essentials are easily acquired. Many a habitual fozzler never forgets to remind the casual onlooker that he intends to hit the ball exactly as Braid or Vardon, either by working his right foot firmly into the ground when taking his stance or by throwing hands and club out and away when "wagging" in preparation for his shot. Many an expert has declared that this method of imitation is of no particular benefit when a player's best shots are most needed for the reason that what might be a good mannerism in one man might prove devoid of benefit to another who imitates the first named.

a foursome? If so, why!" Considering the question, the authority continues: "Now the man who, after answering the main question in the affirmative, goes on to say that he likes four-ballers because he gets more shots to play and consequently more exercise, may be pitied because he cannot be contemned. He may even claim respect if he admits that he likes to count the score of his rounds and estimate his progress by the diminution of their totals. True, he is cutting himself off from the highest pleasure of the match play game, but self-sacrifice, even for a less worthy object than self-improvement, is always respectable."

The second question this particular authority would propound is: "Do I invariably refuse to give myself the benefit of any doubt which may arise about those of my scores which are not recorded by an appointed marker duly furnished with card and pencil?" He then proceeds: "It does not greatly matter if a man proclaims to others that he has been round approximately in a certain figure. 'Approximately' is a blessed word. It in-